REMARKS

As a result of the amendments presented herein, Claims 1-35 and 37-38 are currently pending. Applicants have cancelled Claim 36 and have amended Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 10-21, 28, 30-33, 35 and 37. Applicants respectfully request that the amended claim set be examined in lieu of the claims as originally filed.

Prior/Concurrent Proceedings

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.178(b), Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to a prior reissue application concerning Pat. No. 5,597,200, specifically serial no. 09/239,054, the parent of the present application.

Status of Claims - 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(c)

In light of the amendments submitted herein, the status of each of the claims is as follows:

Claim	Status	Claim	Status
1	Pending, as amended herein	20	Pending, as amended herein
2	Pending, as originally filed	21	Pending, as amended herein
3	Pending, as amended herein	22	Pending, as originally filed
4	Pending, as amended herein	23	Pending, as originally filed
5	Pending, as amended herein	24	Pending, as originally filed
6	Pending, as originally filed	25	Pending, as originally filed
7	Pending, as originally filed	26	Pending, as originally filed
8	Pending, as amended herein	27	Pending, as originally filed
9	Pending, as originally filed	28	Pending, as amended herein
10	Pending, as amended herein	29	Pending, as originally filed
11	Pending, as amended herein	30	Pending, as amended herein
12	Pending, as amended herein	31	Pending, as amended herein
13	Pending, as amended herein	32	Pending, as amended herein
14	Pending, as amended herein	33	Pending, as amended herein
15	Pending, as amended herein	34	Pending, as originally filed
16	Pending, as amended herein	35	Pending, as amended herein
17	Pending, as amended herein	36	Cancelled
18	Pending, as amended herein	37	Pending, as amended herein
19	Pending, as amended herein	38	Pending, as originally filed

Explanation of Claim Amendments and Support Therefor - 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(c)

Original-patent claims 1, 3-5 and 8 have been amended as detailed above, with the additions underlined and the deletions bracketed and in bold.

Claims 10-21, 28, 30-33 and 35-36, which were added in the present reissue application, are marked below to show the amendments made herein to the original submission of these claims. The additions are underlined and the deletions are bracketed and in bold.

10. (Amended) An apparatus for selectively varying the environmental temperature of a seat, comprising:

a support member in the seat, the support member being formed from a first surface adjacent an occupant of the seat when in use and an opposing second surface further away from the occupant when in use;

an integral airflow sub-channel that is molded or formed in the support member and extends adjacent **[extending along]** the first surface of the support member, the sub-channel having walls, an inlet to receive temperature conditioned air, and an outlet at the first surface of the support member for dispensing temperature-conditioned air therefrom; and

an air-impermeable barrier on a side of the airflow sub-channel opposite the top surface of the support member.

[a layer of air-permeable support material abutting the first surface of the support member and covering the airflow sub-channel.]

11. (Amended) An apparatus as defined in Claim 10 **[1]**, further comprising a layer of air-permeable support material abutting the first surface of the support member and covering the airflow sub-channel. **[a seat covering substantially encapsulating the layer of air-permeable support material to the support member.]**

12. (Amended) An apparatus as defined in Claim 11 **[1]**, wherein the layer of air-permeable support material comprises a layer of adhesive-backed material.

13. (Amended) An apparatus as defined in Claim 11 **[1]**, wherein the support member comprises a resilient material, and the layer of air-permeable support material is substantially less stretchable than the resilient material of the support member.

14. (Amended) An apparatus as defined in Claim 11 **[1]**, further comprising a porous member which substantially covers the layer of air-permeable support material and a seat covering substantially encapsulating the layer of air-permeable support material to the support member.

15. (Amended) An apparatus **[as defined in Claim 1, further comprising]** for selectively varying the environmental temperature of a seat, comprising:

a support member in the seat, the support member being formed from a first surface adjacent an occupant of the seat when in use and an opposing second surface further away from the occupant when in use;

an integral airflow sub-channel extending along the first surface of the support member, the sub-channel having walls, an inlet to receive temperature conditioned air, and an outlet at the first surface of the support member for dispensing temperature-conditioned air therefrom; and

a liner placed in the airflow sub-channel, the liner having paths for air to pass through the liner to the first surface.

16. (Amended) An apparatus as defined in Claim 15 **[6]**, wherein the liner is configured to resist crushing of the airflow sub-channel when the weight of a seat occupant is placed on the support member and the airflow sub-channel.

17. (Amended) An apparatus as defined in Claim 15 **[6]**, wherein the liner is affixed to the walls of the airflow sub-channel.

18. (Amended) An apparatus as defined in Claim 10 **[1]**, wherein the airflow sub-channel comprises a first and second plurality of airflow sub-channels oriented perpendicular to each other.

19. (Amended) An apparatus as defined in Claim 11 **[1]**, wherein the layer of air-permeable support material is adhered to the top surface of the support member.

20. (Amended) An apparatus as defined in Claim 11 **[1]**, wherein the layer of air-permeable support material has a plurality of holes.

21. (Amended) An apparatus as defined in Claim 10 **[1]**, wherein the temperature-conditioned air is routed from the first surface of the support member to the second surface of the support member.

28. (Amended) A method for selectively varying the environmental temperature of a seat, comprising the steps of:

routing temperature-conditioned air from an air inlet to an air outlet of an airflow channel extending through a support member of the seat;

distributing temperature-conditioned air from the air outlet along a top surface of the support member to at least one air subchannel disposed within the **[s]**top surface;

passing the air through an air-porous member positioned on the support member and over the at least one air subchannel, through an intermediate layer interposed between the support member and the air-porous member, and away from an air-impermeable barrier located on a side of the air subchannel opposite the air-porous member; and

passing temperature-conditioned air from the air subchannels through the porous member and subsequently to a seat covering substantially encapsulating the air-porous member to the support member.

30. (Amended) A method as recited in Claim 28, wherein the support member comprises a resilient material, and the air-porous member comprises a layer of air-permeable support material which **[layer of material]** is selected to be substantially less stretchable than the resilient material of the support member.

31. (Amended) A method **[as recited in Claim 28, comprising the further step of]** for selectively varying the environmental temperature of a seat, comprising the steps of:

routing temperature-conditioned air from an air inlet to an air outlet of an airflow channel extending through a support member of the seat;

distributing temperature-conditioned air from the air outlet along a top surface of the support member to at least one air subchannel disposed within the top surface;

placing a liner in the air subchannel **[flow channel and passing air through the flow channel]** to resist crushing of the air subchannel **[flow channel]** when the weight of a seat occupant is placed on the support member and the air subchannel **[flow channel]**;

passing the air through an air-porous member positioned on the support member and over the at least one air subchannel; and

passing temperature-conditioned air from the air subchannels through the porous member and subsequently to a seat covering substantially encapsulating the air-porous member to the support member.

32. (Amended) A method as recited in Claim 31 **[28]**, comprising the further step of passing air through the liner to the air-porous member **[resilient material]**.

33. (Amended) A method as recited in Claim 32, comprising the further step of affixing the liner to a **[the]** wall of the air subchannel **[flow channel]** and passing the temperature-conditioned air through the liner as it is affixed to the wall**[s]**.

35. (Amended) A method as recited in Claim 28, wherein the air-porous member is adhered to the support member so that the air-porous member helps to resist collapse and blockage of the air subchannel **[flow channel]** as air passes therethrough.

37. (Amended) A method as recited in Claim 28 **[36]**, wherein the intermediate layer is selected to comprise a structural screen making it difficult for a seat occupant to feel the channels when the seat occupant is sitting in the seat.

Claim 1: Support for "molded or formed in the support member. . ." is found at, inter alia, Figs. 1, 3, 4 and 5, and Col. 4, lines 46-52. Support for "an air-impermeable barrier" is found at, inter alia, Fig. 9 and Col. 7, lines 27-30.

Claim 3: Support for "molded or formed in the seat cushion. . ." is found at, inter alia, Figs. 1, 3, 4 and 5, and Col. 4, lines 46-52. Support for "an air-impermeable barrier" is found at, inter alia, Fig. 9 and Col. 7, lines 27-30.

Claim 4: Support for "molded or formed in the seat cushion. . ." is found at, inter alia, Figs. 1, 3, 4 and 5, and Col. 4, lines 46-52. Support for "an air-impermeable barrier" is found at, inter alia, Fig. 9 and Col. 7, lines 27-30.

Claim 5: Support for "molded or formed in the support member. . ." is found at, inter alia, Figs. 1, 3, 4 and 5, and Col. 4, lines 46-52. Support for "an air-impermeable barrier" is found at, inter alia, Fig. 9 and Col. 7, lines 27-30.

Claim 8: Support for "in a direction opposite an air-impermeable barrier" and "top surface" is found at, inter alia, Fig. 9 and Col. 7, lines 27-30.

Claim 10: Support for "molded or formed in the support member. . ." is found at, inter alia, Figs. 1, 3, 4 and 5, and Col. 4, lines 46-52. Support for "an air-impermeable barrier" is found at, inter alia, Fig. 9 and Col. 7, lines 27-30.

Claim 11: See, inter alia, Figs. 4-5 and Col. 5, lines 3-26.

Claim 13: See, inter alia, Figs. 4-5 and Col. 5, lines 3-26.

Claim 14: See, inter alia, Figs. 4-5 and Col. 4, line 50-Col. 5, line 13.

Claim 15: See, inter alia, Figs. 1, 3 and 4; Col. 4, line 38-Col. 6, line 14.

Claim 28: See, inter alia, Fig. 1, 3, 6, 9 and Col. 7, lines 27-30.

Claim 30: See, inter alia, Figs. 4-5 and Col. 5, lines 3-26.

Claims 31-33, 35: See, inter alia, Figs. 1, 3-4 and Col. 4, line 38-Col. 6, line 14.

Claims 12, 16-21 and 37: have been amended only to change their dependency.

Drawing Amendments

In the accompanying PRELIMINARY SUBMISSION OF DRAWING AMENDMENTS FOR APPROVAL BY THE EXAMINER Applicants submit new FIG. 5a, which shows the liner 41 in the subchannel 27. Applicants describe in detail the stiffener or liner 41 depicted in FIG. 5a at, inter alia, COL. 5, lines 28-38 of the specification. This portion of the specification has been amended only to incorporate the references to FIG. 5a. Therefore no new matter has been entered.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants submit herewith an Information Disclosure Statement citing references which were of record in the parent (no. 09/239,054) to the present application. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider the cited references in examining the claims as amended herein.

Submission of Original Patent

Applicants have already submitted the original copy of the patent under reissue, no. 5,597,200, in the parent to this application, serial no. 09/239,054.

Supplemental Reissue Declarations

Applicants will submit supplemental declarations to support the amendments made herein, but wish to delay submission of the declarations until completion of examination on the merits of the instant application.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request examination of the present application in light of the amendments and comments presented herein. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned Attorney if the Examiner has any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: Nov. 28, 2001

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